

Thanks Living, Part 4 - Be the One!

☐ Monday - True Thanksgiving Involves the Heart.

When Jesus healed the ten lepers, we read, “Now one of them, when he saw that he had been healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice, and he fell on his face at His feet, giving thanks to Him” (Luke 17:15-16). Notice first the manner in which this man gave thanks. His thanksgiving was joyful, exuberant and uninhibited. There is a kind of cold, formal “thank you” that satisfies social etiquette, and then there is true thanksgiving that comes from the heart and engages the emotions. “I will give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with all my heart” (Psalm 86:12), this is the prescription for thanksgiving that honors God. Read Psalm 9:1, 69:30

☐ Tuesday - Our Public Profession of Thanks.

Ten lepers were healed by Christ, but only one turned back to give thanks, and his thanksgiving was public and we might even say, flagrant -- he “was glorifying God with a loud voice [and] giving thanks to Him.” Christian, the Lord wants to hear your public proclamations of thanksgiving, for such unashamed and blatant expressions honor God (Psalm 50:23). Second, the church needs to hear it, for one overtly thankful heart can sweeten the whole congregation (Psalm 35:18). Finally, the world needs to hear your thanksgiving which is a huge part of your Christian testimony (Psalm 57:9), and one ray of the light of Christ that shines in you (Mt. 5:14-16). Dear Christian, give thanks in everything (1 Thess. 5:18), and in all places (Psalm 103:22). Read Psalm 35:18, 57:9, 111:1

☐ Wednesday - The Perfect Thanksgiving Recipe.

Look at the posture of this man who was healed of his leprosy: “he fell on his face at [Jesus] feet, giving thanks to Him” (Luke 17:16). O what a beautiful recipe it is when thanksgiving is mixed with humility. There is a type of thanksgiving that is proud, even arrogant (Lk. 18:11-12), but true thanksgiving is the humble heart’s response to the undeserved grace of God. O Lord, “I will bow down ... and give thanks to Your name for Your lovingkindness and Your truth” (Psalm 138:2). Read 1 Peter 5:5-6

☐ Thursday - Thanksgiving Inversely Proportional to Expectations.

Today, the general sense of thanksgiving in our culture is so miserably low, because our sense of entitlement is at an all time high. But why did this one leper, out of the ten that were healed, express such great thanksgiving? Our text says he was a “Samaritan” (Luke 17:16), and a “foreigner” (Luke 17:18). The Samaritans were not a part of the “lost sheep of Israel” to whom Christ was sent (Mt. 15:24). And so, he had little or no reason to expect that the Jewish Messiah should heal him. But that is precisely why his thanksgiving was so exuberant. His thanksgiving was great, because his expectations were small. The only antidote for an unthankful heart is the gospel, which tells me that the wages of my sin is eternal death (Rom. 6:23) -- that is what I have earned, that is what I am entitled to. Anything better than that is undeserved, unmerited mercy. The Bible commands the Christian, “In *everything* give thanks” (1 Thess. 5:18), and I can do that because *everything* else is infinitely better than Hell! Read Job 1:21

☐ Friday - Be The One!

Ten lepers were healed by Christ that day; one gave thanks -- one man standing alone (Luke 17:11-19). Today, perhaps more than at any other time in history, what the church needs is stand-alone faith: men and women who are willing to stand alone for Jesus Christ in their office place, school, neighborhood, even among their friends and family. Christian men and women willing to stand against the tide of public opinion. Dear friend, will you stand up for Jesus, as a light in the darkness? Read Matthew 5:13-16